

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

**Rick Scott**

Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**

State Surgeon General &amp; Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN DUVAL COUNTY EARNS  
NATIONAL "PUBLIC HEALTH READY" RECOGNITION**

Jacksonville, FL - The Florida Department of Health in Duval County (DOH-Duval) has been recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for its ability to plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. DOH-Duval demonstrated these capabilities by meeting the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), a unique partnership between NACCHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. DOH-Duval joins a cohort of more than 400 local health departments across the country that have been distinguished for excellence in preparedness through PPHR, either individually or as part of a region.

"Recognition by Project Public Health Ready is validation that our staff and partners maintain a state of readiness," said DOH-Duval Director Dr. Kelli Wells. "We will continue, through planning and partnerships, to improve our capability to respond to any public health crisis in Duval County."

PPHR recognition confirms that DOH-Duval has a thorough and coordinated emergency response plan in place and that staff have the training to protect the health of the community during an emergency. Local health departments recognized by PPHR undergo rigorous peer evaluation to assess their ability to meet a set of national standards for public health preparedness. These standards align with federal government requirements and other national best practices.

PPHR recognition also requires health departments to collaborate with their state, local, and community partners to develop plans providing for the care of all the constituents in their jurisdictions. DOH-Duval collaborates with organizations such as Jacksonville Fire and Rescue, Medical Reserve Corps, and American Red Cross.

"All disasters strike locally, and local health departments are a critical part of any community's first response to disease outbreaks, emergencies, and acts of terrorism," said Robert Pestronk, NACCHO Executive Director. "NACCHO commends the Florida Department of Health in Duval County for being a model of public health emergency preparedness."

NACCHO, the voice of the 2,800 local health departments across the country, provides resources to help local health department leaders develop public health policies and programs to ensure that communities have access to vital programs and services that people need to keep them protected from disease and disaster. Its mission is to be a leader, partner, catalyst,

**Florida Department of Health in Duval County**

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and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.

The Florida Department of Health in Duval County works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

For more information about the Florida Department of Health in Duval County please visit <http://duval.floridahealth.gov>.

For more information on Project Public Health Ready, including recognized sites, project tools, and resources, visit <http://www.naccho.org/PPHR> .

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